

Please add the following paragraph on page 8, line 8:

b3 *Sub C* Figure 11 is a drawing that illustrates a further alternative embodiment of the invention including a flattened closed end as opposed to a hemispherical top. As with the other embodiments disclosed herein, the thickness of the top is generally consistent with the thickness of the side walls.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Replace current claim 1 with the following:

Sub C
B4 1. (Twice Amended) A cover for a substantially rigid elongated generally cylindrical stanchion having a lower end associated with the ground and an opposing upper end, the cover consisting essentially of:

a sleeve having an elongated, generally cylindrical body extending between two opposing ends, said body having a generally cylindrical interior cavity extending along said sleeve and through one of said two opposing ends, said interior cavity having a substantially consistent circular cross-sectional shape extending between said two opposing ends without any inwardly extending protrusion, said cavity being adapted to receive the stanchion in slip-fit engagement; and

said other opposing end of said sleeve having a closed, hemispherically shaped dome top that smoothly transitions from said body.

[Replace current claim 2 with the following:]

2. (Twice Amended) A method of encasing a stanchion, comprising the steps of:

providing a sleeve having an elongated generally cylindrical body with two opposing ends and an interior cavity extending along said elongated body and through one end of said elongated body, the

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other of said ends having a closed, hemispherically shaped dome top that smoothly transitions from said body without any discontinuities;

forming said interior cavity with a substantially consistent circular cross-sectional shape extending between said opposing ends without any inwardly extending protrusion, said interior chamber adapted to receive the stanchion in slip fit engagement;

inserting the stanchion into said interior cavity; and

urging said sleeve onto the stanchion, to a desired position on the stanchion, to at least partially encase the stanchion.

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Replace current claim 3 with the following:

3. (Amended) A cover for a substantially rigid elongated generally cylindrical stanchion having a lower end associated with the ground and an opposing upper end, the cover comprising:

a sleeve having an elongated, generally cylindrical body extending generally between two opposing ends, said body having a generally cylindrical interior cavity extending along said sleeve and through one of said two opposing ends, said interior cavity having a substantially consistent circular cross-sectional shape extending between said two opposing ends without any inwardly extending protrusion, said cavity being adapted to receive the stanchion in slip-fit engagement;

said other opposing end of said sleeve having a closed, hemispherically shaped dome top that smoothly transitions from said body; and

said sleeve and said dome top each being molded from a plastic material and having a wall thickness, said wall thickness of said sleeve and said wall thickness of said dome top being substantially the same.

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Please replace current claim 4 with the following:

4. (Amended) A stanchion and cover assembly comprising:

a substantially rigid elongated generally cylindrical stanchion having a lower end associated with the ground and an opposing upper end defining a height;

a sleeve having an elongated, generally cylindrical body extending generally between two opposing ends defining a length, said body having a generally cylindrical interior cavity extending along said sleeve and through one of said two opposing ends, said interior cavity having a substantially consistent circular cross-sectional shape extending between said two opposing ends without any inwardly extending protrusion, said cavity adapted to receive the stanchion in slip fit engagement;

said other opposing end of said sleeve having a closed, hemispherically shaped dome top; and

said length of said sleeve being the same as or slightly longer than said height of said stanchion such that said stanchion substantially fills said interior cavity.

Please replace current claim 5 with the following:

5. (Amended) A stanchion and cover assembly comprising:

a substantially rigid elongated generally cylindrical stanchion having a lower end associated with the ground and an opposing upper end;

a sleeve having an elongated, generally cylindrical body extending generally between two opposing ends, said body having a generally cylindrical interior cavity extending along said sleeve and through one of said two opposing ends, said interior cavity having a substantially consistent circular cross-sectional shape extending between said two opposing ends, said cavity adapted to receive the stanchion in slip fit engagement; and

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said other opposing end of said sleeve having a closed, hemispherically shaped dome top that smoothly transitions from said body;

wherein nothing else is required to retain said cover on said stanchion;

[Please replace current claim 6 with the following:]

6. (Amended) A stanchion and cover assembly comprising:

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a substantially rigid elongated generally cylindrical stanchion having a lower end associated with the ground and an opposing upper end, the stanchion having a height;

a sleeve having an elongated, generally cylindrical body extending generally between two opposing ends, said body having a generally cylindrical interior cavity extending along said sleeve and through one of said two opposing ends, said interior cavity having a substantially consistent circular cross-sectional shape extending between said two opposing ends, said cavity adapted to receive the stanchion in slip fit engagement, said sleeve having a length;

said other opposing end of said sleeve having a closed, hemispherically shaped dome top that smoothly transitions from said body;

said length of said sleeve being the same as or slightly longer than said height of said stanchion such that said stanchion substantially fill said interior cavity; and

1 said sleeve and said dome top each being molded from a plastic material and having a wall thickness, said wall thickness of said sleeve and said wall thickness of said dome top being substantially the same.

Please add new claim 7 as follows:

BS 7. A cover for a substantially rigid elongated generally cylindrical stanchion having a lower end associated with the ground and an opposing upper end, the cover consisting essentially of:

a sleeve having an elongated, generally cylindrical body extending between two opposing ends, said body having a generally cylindrical interior cavity extending along said sleeve and through one of said two opposing ends, said interior cavity having a substantially consistent circular cross-sectional shape extending between said two opposing ends without any inwardly extending protrusion, said cavity adapted to receive the stanchion in slip fit engagement; and

said other opposing end of said sleeve having a closed top transverse to the body.